VANCOUVER metro®

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SPECIAL EDITION THE YEAR AHEAD

DO YOU HAVE PLANS YET?
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
FREE SHOW
TONY BARTON
Edgewater Casino DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER
SEE PAGE 25

INSIDE:

• It's not enough to talk about sexual assault — we need action (Pg 17)
• Paul Sullivan's New Year's resolutions for Vancouver (Pg 21)
• Are we any closer to that far-flung 2015 envisioned in Back to the Future 2? (Pg 23)
• Folks, it's time for an etiquette lesson (Pg 27)
and more...

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

VANCOUVER 2015: ONE TO WATCH

Erin Shum

ENTERING THE POLITICAL RING

STORY ON PAGE 4 — PLUS, MEET 3 INFLUENCERS UNDER THE AGE OF 30

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Gonna party like it's 2015

For auld lang syne.
Resolve to ring in the new year right at one of the many shindigs going down on Dec. 31

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

New Year's Eve festivities are set to rock the Hotel Vancouver again this year. COURTESY ARRIVAL AGENCY

Get ready to pop the champagne and light those sparklers, Vancouver.

If you haven't started making New Year's Eve arrangements, you may already be behind schedule — but don't fret yet. With this handy guide, Metro has you covered with some of the hottest parties in town that guarantee to have you ringing in 2015 in style. From chic cocktail events to all-night dance parties, themed bashes to family-friendly festivities, there's something for everyone on Dec. 31.

Disclaimer: Be sure to call in advance and check ticket availability.

Celebrities Nightclub, age 19+, doors open 9 p.m., no dress code

• Resident DJs Timeline, Yurie and Mattilda Ho are ringing in the new year with club hits and house anthems. With a massive countdown on the LED wall and a balloon drop and champagne toast at midnight, this party is sure to be a memorable one. Tickets are $40.

Hotel Vancouver, age 19+, doors open 9 p.m., dress code is "dress to impress"

• This epic celebration combines six parties in one at the historic Hotel Vancouver. At the Motown Party, DJ Rod Skimmins and Slimroy will delight dance floors with funk and soul hits, while DJ Cherchez La Femme will keep partiers entertained with hip-hop, R&B and club favourites with drag queen Jane Smoker performing a Paris Hilton DJ set. Tickets start at $99.

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, age 25+, starts 9 p.m., dress code is chic and sassy (mandatory jacket or suit for gents)

• This stylish celebration offers a more upscale and mature environment with canapés and a glass of champagne at midnight. DJs Ryan Live and Kidd will be spinning top 40, party anthems and rock beats that are guaranteed to keep you on your feet all night. In the Grey Goose room, DJ Skyline and a special guest will be playing old school R&B classics. Don't miss the photo booth, 20-foot red carpet media wall and live countdown accompanied by a balloon drop. Tickets are $100.

Marriott Pinnacle, age 23+, starts 7:30 p.m., dress code is chic and sassy (mandatory jacket or suit for gents)

• Foodies will be in their element at this event, one of the largest New Year's Eve hotel parties in Vancouver. With a delectable cocktail reception menu and midnight desert buffet stations by Chef Frank Gort and his culinary team, your taste buds will be thanking you for the rest of 2015. DJs Downlowe and Rockwell DJ's aRelik and Lokoboy will play hits to keep you dancing all night. Evening ends accompanied with a balloon drop, desert buffet and champagne. Tickets start at $80.

A Great Gatsby New Year's Eve at Harbour Event Centre, age 19+, dress code is not mandatory but zoot suits and flapper dresses are encouraged

• Featuring a wild array of musicians, performers, swing dancers, voguers, aerial acrobatics, theatrics, DJs and more, this party is bound to be a riproaring celebration. Tickets are $75.

Family First Night at Mt. Seymour, all ages, runs 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., no dress code

• As one of Vancouver's only family-friendly New Year's Eve celebrations, this event offers tubing and tobogganing, live entertainment, and fine food vendors that appeal to all ages. Children's performers Tickles and Yowza the Clowns will perform on the main stage, followed by a magic show from Shmendrick the Wizard and fire spinning from VestaFire Entertainment. Concludes with an early New Year's Eve countdown and a fireworks finale at 9 p.m.

Getting around

TransLink's tips on taking transit on New Year's Eve:

- To help you get home safe, TransLink is providing free fares starting at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 until 5 a.m. on Jan. 1.
- Bus service is running on usual weekday schedules with some routes running additional evening and late-night trips. Use the Trip Planner to check your route and bus times.
- SkyTrain is running usual weekday schedules with more frequent evening trains. Service will also be extended by about one hour.
- The last Expo Line train to King George will leave Waterfront at 2:16 a.m.
- The last Canada Line train leaves Waterfront at 2:05 a.m. to YVR and 2:15 a.m. to Richmond-Brighouse.
- SeaBus will operate a normal weekday schedule but will extend service by about one hour with the last sailing from Lonsdale Quay at 2 a.m. and Waterfront at 2:20 a.m.
- West Coast Express afternoon trains depart from Waterfront at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. The 12:55 p.m. TrainBus will be replaced by the 1 p.m. train. All other TrainBus trips will depart at their regular times.

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VANCOUVER 2015: ONE TO WATCH

Park commissioner bringing the fun

Interview. Erin Shum offers a more youthful perspective on municipal politics

EMILY JACKSON
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Newly elected park board commissioner Erin Shum wants to give Vancouverites a reason to keep paying attention to municipal politics after the hectic campaign season.

The 31-year-old business owner and first-time politician with the Non-Partisan Association plans to inject some energy into the city's parks department.

"We campaigned on putting some fun back into our parks," Shum told Metro.

Shum, a downtown resident who grew up in East Van, isn't the youngest person to ever be elected to the park board — that distinction goes to outgoing commissioner Trevor Loke, 26 — but she brings a younger perspective than most commissioners elected on Nov. 15.

Her list of priorities includes NPA pledges to clean up the parks, listen to beleaguered community centre associations and lobby for a quick groundbreaking of the long-awaited Killarney seniors' centre.

"With my age group, a lot of our parents are moving into the seniors demographic. It's my responsibility to look into that and start building something for them," Shum said. "It would be great if we can actually break ground and make (the seniors centre) happen within a year."

Aside from her party's platform, Shum also has her own ideas to pitch during the four-year term. She will advocate for additional ice rinks in the city, as she continuously hears from peers who can't get ice time at reasonable hours. And after attending the Coachella music festival last spring, she thought, "How amazing would it be to have something like that in our parks?"

Shum graduated from UBC with a forest genetics degree in 2005 and opened an organic and eco-friendly spa, She to Shic, with her mother in Kerrisdale in 2009. She also works with children with autism.

Erin Shum, elected to the park board on Nov. 15, outside the Coal Harbour Community Centre in December.
EMILY JACKSON/METRO.

She first got involved in politics after a stint working with Elections BC. She was approached to run for the NPA while helping out a friend who ran in the 2013 provincial election.

For the younger crowd that is less inclined to participate in municipal politics, Shum recommends volunteering as a stepping stone.

"They're still trying to figure out their life, their careers," she said. "Get involved with the community through volunteering ... go from there."

Shum began volunteering at a very young age with the Girl Guides and the St. John Ambulance brigade. She also sat on the board of the Learning Disabilities Association of Vancouver.

When she's not busy with her work, Shum is busy checking out new restaurants and supporting her fellow local small-business owners.

Quoted

"Get involved with the community through volunteering ... go from there."
Erin Shum
on her advice to young people

VANCOUVER 2015: TOP 3 INFLUENCERS UNDER 30

3 'Start small, go big': Entrepreneur J.J. Wilson's plans for 2015

In a span of two months in 2014, 26-year-old Vancouverite J.J. Wilson opened luxury T-shirt store Kit and Ace in Gastown and premium spin studio Ride Cycle Club in Yaletown.

But he has no plans to slow down in 2015.

"Start small, go big" will be Wilson's motto next year, he told Metro in an email.

The entrepreneur and son of Lululemon founder Chip Wilson plans to open 15 more Kit and Ace locations in North America, Australia, Japan and the U.K. next year and build a flagship location in Vancouver. (Wilson started the business with his mother, Shannon.)

Classes are already filling up at the spin studio, Wilson said, so he and business partner Ashley Ander intend to open studios in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto.

On a more personal note, Wilson will launch a website (jjwilson.com) as an outlet for some of his creative side projects.

At this rate, it seems Vancouverites will be hearing a lot more of the Wilson name for years to come. **EMILY JACKSON/METRO**

2 Jodie Emery vying for Liberal party candidacy in Vancouver East

She's known for her advocacy on marijuana legalization, but next year Jodie Emery plans to cast a wider net while campaigning for the Liberals in the 2015 federal election.

The 29-year-old is seeking the nomination to run as the Liberal party's Vancouver East candidate in the 2015 federal election.

Even if she doesn't get the nod — a decision is expected by the end of January — Emery will be front and centre in an effort to boot the Harper government from power.

"Canada is becoming a national embarrassment on the world stage," she told Metro. "Our government's priorities are misplaced."

She plans to fight for the environment and issues of justice and policing.

"People need to figure out how they can contribute to whatever cause they care about," she said. "Everyone has a way to contribute something."

Emery, who is married to the infamous "Prince of Pot," Marc Emery, will also continue the campaign to end pot prohibition.

"I feel that legalization will happen no matter what because of the way the tides are changing in the U.S.," she said. **EMILY JACKSON/METRO**

1 Effing cancer: Philanthropist Yael Cohen Braun keeps fighting

It's been five years since Yael Cohen Braun started FCancer after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and the 28-year-old is showing no signs of slowing.

In October, the Vancouver native joined forces with fellow Canadian philanthropist Julie Greenbaum of F*ck Cancer. Until this year, Cohen Braun and Greenbaum were running separate charities under the same name.

Cohen Braun decided to reach out and invite Greenbaum for coffee.

"I was like, 'Hey, we're both obviously trying to do something good,'" Cohen Braun told Metro. "'Why don't we do this together?'

"Initially both of us did not want to like each other," she said, adding with a laugh: "I think we both had our game faces on and by the end of the meeting we were like, 'Damn it, I really like you.'"

Cohen Braun said her philanthropic mission remains the same for 2015: To prevent and detect cancer and empower this generation to be the one that improves health outcomes. **THANDI FLETCHER/METRO**

VANCOUVER 2015: TAXIS

Uber driving changes on Vancouver streets

Taxi alternative. City council will review the idea in a six-month transport assessment

EMILY JACKSON
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If you're cursing the lack of cab drivers on New Year's Eve, take solace in the fact big changes could be coming to the transportation industry in 2015.

Uber, a U.S. ride company that connects drivers and passengers via a smartphone app, is vying to operate in the city despite intense opposition from Vancouver's entrenched taxi industry.

The company, reviled by regulators around the world for its refusal to play by the same safety rules as the taxi industry, failed to launch in B.C. a couple years ago after the Passenger Transportation Branch ruled it had to charge customers limousine prices of $75 per hour.

But Vancouver city council has promised to review the idea in a six-month assessment of transportation options for its residents. The review is expected to be complete by spring 2015.

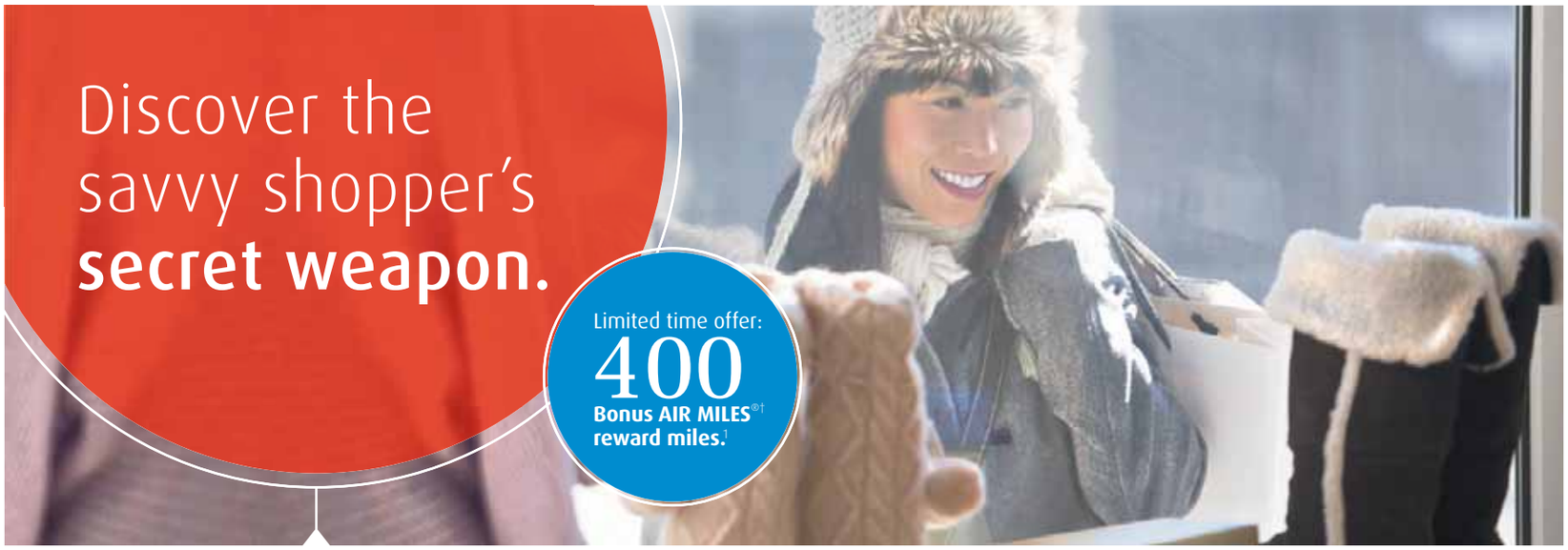
Meantime, Uber is setting up shop.

It has posted job advertisements for both drivers and office workers.

While Uber faced intense scrutiny at the end of 2014 for its company's aggressive strategies and nasty comments about reporters, it's a big hit with consumers. It removes the need to hail a cab by setting up a ride on an app and stops people from fumbling with cash by facilitating all credit card payments (including tip) through the app.

Disrupter

(Uber's) proven to be a big hit with consumers. It removes the need to hail a cab by setting up a ride on an app.



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By the numbers

21,130

People who signed an online petition supporting Uber in Vancouver

2

Uber's attempts to launch in Vancouver

A woman walks past a taxi on Granville Street in Downtown Vancouver on a rainy December afternoon. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

The way of the future

It's not yet clear if Uber will win the approval to operate legally in Vancouver, but politicians have certainly acknowledged that ride-sharing technology is the way of the future.

- Other companies are trying to take advantage of that attitude.
- Local startup Ripe wants to offer a service in between cabs and limos.

VANCOUVER 2015: PIPELINES

Future looks different for each of B.C.'s two controversial projects

Public profile. Kinder Morgan's pipeline will become a key voting issue, while Enbridge will quietly strive to meet 209 conditions

MATT KIELTYKA
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The two big pipelines proposed in British Columbia will have very different 2015s, according to Burnaby-Douglas MP Kennedy Stewart.

While the NDP critic for science and technology said Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline continue to dominate headlines and linger on the mind of British Columbians, he expects the public profile of the two projects to be very different in the new year.

On one hand, Kinder Morgan's project is still going through the National Energy Board process and the contentious project (126 people were arrested in November protesting survey work on Burnaby mountain) still doesn't have a preferred route through the Lower Mainland.

That means updates and debate about the project should continue at a steady rate, Stewart says.

Protester Marija Brzev locked herself to a cement block with a bike lock on Nov. 20 as at least a dozen RCMP officers entered an anti-pipeline encampment on Burnaby Mountain and started making arrests. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

It also makes the pipeline — which still requires NEB and federal government approval — a big election issue for British Columbians.

"It requires approval from cabinet, so that makes it a political decision," said Stewart. "Who is sitting in cabinet when the time comes makes a difference. I think it could impact on the election for voters along the coast and in B.C."

A decision from the NEB on Trans Mountain is now expected in early 2016.

Northern Gateway, meanwhile, already has approval from both the NEB and government, provided it meets 209 conditions.

A quiet year for Enbridge

Stewart believes Enbridge is in for a much quieter year as the company goes about its business, makes plans to meet conditions and negotiates behind closed doors as it strives to gain support from First Nations

- The company also has to gain the support of British Columbia, with Premier Christy Clark maintaining her five conditions for provincial approval have yet to be met.
- The conditions are: successful completion of the environmental assessment process, world-leading marine and terrestrial spill response and recovery plans, address aboriginal concerns and provide B.C. with a fair share of benefits.

Quoted

"It requires approval from cabinet, so that makes it a political decision. Who is sitting in cabinet ... makes a difference."

Kennedy Stewart, Burnaby-Douglas MP
on Kinder Morgan's pipeline

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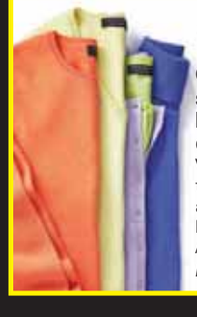

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VANCOUVER 2015: TRANSIT

Transit referendum campaigns gear up

'Yes' and 'No.' Groups battle it out over PST increase that would fund transit plan

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The first few months of 2015 will see Lower Mainland residents inundated with "Yes" and "No" propaganda ahead of the transit referendum.

Both sides of the fence have geared up for an intense campaign.

On one side is the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and an umbrella group called the Better Transit and Transportation Coalition, consisting of organizations like the Vancouver Board of Trade, the David Suzuki Foundation and trade unions, among others.

They are strongly advocating for a regional 0.5 per cent increase to the provincial sales tax, allowing Metro Vancouver to generate upwards of $250 million in new revenue a year and allowing the mayors to follow through on a 10-year, $7.5-billion transit plan to expand bus service, replace the Pattullo Bridge and build a subway along Broadway in Vancouver and light rapid transit lines in Surrey.

"I'm very hopeful that if the referendum passes people will speak loud and clear; we want transit investment," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "Plan B is that we have brutal traffic congestion and pollution, and that's not acceptable. Plan A is what we have to work toward with all of our efforts and energy."

The increase in PST amounts to an extra cost of $125 a year for the average family.

However, the "No" side — with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation taking the lead — questions TransLink's spending practices and opposes a regional sales tax.

"It's going to be very expensive for families to deal with," said Jordan Bateman, B.C. director of the CTF. "Right now the message is simple, TransLink wastes so much of our money and now the mayors want to give them $250 million more a year."

Bateman said the group will propose alternatives in 2015.

The provincial government said it will remain neutral, not devoting any resources to either side.

People wait for a bus on Granville Street on Dec. 11, 2014. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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2014 saw crowdfunding boost start-ups

A total of $1.3 million was raised for high-fidelity wireless speakers, and almost $1.2 million for specialty drones.

In 2014, several tiny Canadian companies went from obscurity to making headlines on tech blogs around the world thanks to successful crowdfunding campaigns.

Once the domain of hobbyists and tinkerers, crowdfunding is increasingly becoming a growth strategy for small companies with big ideas.

"An older paradigm about crowdfunding was four guys in their garage who couldn't find money any other way," said Steve Tam, a marketing manager with Indiegogo Canada.

"Now we're seeing an increasing number of companies who are either already in market or have a very validated product and are using crowdfunding as a part of their marketing campaign, or their fundraising, or their access to international markets."

Mass Fidelity, headquartered just east of Toronto, turned to Indiegogo earlier this year. The company sought about $55,000 to help get its Core wireless speaker system into production.

"We were a small company no one had heard of based in sleepy old Toronto," said co-founder Neil D'Souza.

To Core's astonishment, the modest crowdfunding campaign raised more than 25 times what the company was seeking, eventually surpassing $1.3 million.

The second most successful campaign in Canada this year was for the PlexiDrone, aimed at photographers and videographers. It raised $1.17 million after setting a goal of about $115,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MediJean cannabis plant care technician Misad Shazi sprays water on plants growing at the medical marijuana facility in Richmond, B.C.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New rules on medical pot spark anger

Year in review.
Patients no longer permitted to grow their own supply

Shaun Simpson has had a migraine headache for the past seven years.

His medical problems started with surgery to remove a piece of his skull that was pressing against his brain. The procedure left him with a spinal-fluid leak, which, in turn, fuels a near-constant headache.

For years, Simpson took a dozen or more Tylenol 3 pills a day, but they caused unpleasant side-effects.

About two and a half years ago, he received a prescription for medical marijuana, which he ordered from Health Canada.

"I don't feel like I'm drugged out or stoned from the Tylenol 3; I'm actually more active and social," says Simpson, 34, a photographer in the Maritimes. "It's really changed my life as far as day-to-day routine goes."

Simpson is among tens of thousands of Canadians who have used medical marijuana legally since 2001, and, like many of those patients, he was forced earlier this year to adjust to a massive overhaul of the system.

The federal government implemented new rules prohibiting patients from growing their own pot and instead restricted production and sale to a new collection of licensed commercial operations.

But the system has been beset by complaints of low supply and high prices. Some commercial producers have long waiting lists and are plagued by frequent sellouts, and approvals for new operations have been slow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

How it works

Medical marijuana must be purchased from licensed commercial producers.

- Health Canada says 13,700 patients were registered as of Oct. 31.
- Currently 15 companies are licensed to produce and sell medical pot.

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CANADA 2015: COURT

5 high profile cases to watch

We saw a lot of big names land in court this year, which means there will be a lot of courtroom drama to watch in 2015. These are some of the major criminal cases to keep an eye on, according to Canadian defence lawyer Daniel Brown.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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Sandro Lisi

Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford's friend and driver Alexander (Sandro) Lisi is expected to go on trial for charges of extortion, as well as trafficking in marijuana, possession of the proceeds of crime, possession of marijuana and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

Lisi is accused of extorting Liban Siyad and Mohamed Siad in attempts to get the first Rob Ford crack video.

Jian Ghomeshi

The case against former Q radio host Jian Ghomeshi will make its way through the court system and may go to trial in 2015, said Brown. Ghomeshi is charged with four counts of sexual assault and one count of "overcome resistance, choking" involving three victims. Details of the case will be made public in 2015, but the identities of two of the women accusing him of sexual assault will remain covered by a publication ban.

James Forcillo

James Forcillo is charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder in the July 2013 Toronto streetcar shooting death of Sammy Yatim.

His trial will be a rare one — a police officer charged with murder.

Yatim, 18, was allegedly holding a knife on an empty Dundas West streetcar when he was shot eight times.

Dellen Millard

Dellen Millard faces three counts of first-degree murder, including one for the death of Tim Bosma.

Bosma went missing after leaving his Ancaster, Ont., home to take the truck he was selling on a test drive. His burned remains were later found on Millard's farm. Mark Smitch is also charged in that homicide.

Millard is also charged with first-degree murder in the death of his father and the death of Laura Babcock.

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber, accused of dangerous driving and assaulting a member of the paparazzi, could face a trial in Stratford, Ont., Brown said.

Bieber himself has not made a court appearance in the case, disappointing the Beliebers who have been on hand to catch a glimpse.

"If his case goes to trial, we can expect him there," said Brown.

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Quebec in 2015

Peladeau vows to father new country

Quebec media mogul Pierre Karl Peladeau's journey to become the father of a country begins in earnest in 2015.

The controlling shareholder of Quebecor Inc. is the acknowledged front-runner in the Parti Quebecois leadership race, which will end in May.

While some polls have suggested Peladeau is already the man Quebecers want as premier, the next provincial election won't be held until September 2018.

So, if Peladeau does replace Pauline Marois as PQ leader, he will have three years to be successful in his seemingly simple but yet daunting plan: to revive a moribund sovereignty movement.

One possible negative in his becoming leader is that Quebecers will be getting a much closer look at a relative political neophyte unaccustomed to the cut and thrust of public life.

Peladeau, whose Quebecor is one of the main players in the province's cable, Internet, cellphone and media markets, says his primary goal in entering politics is to make Canada's second most populous province a country.

Asked on Nov. 27, when he officially declared his leadership campaign, what his main theme would be, he replied without hesitation: "Sovereignty."

"I think it's clear that I've committed to achieving Quebec sovereignty. It is my objective, my only objective."

Although Quebecers' support for independence continues to stubbornly stick around 35 per cent, the next few years present Peladeau an opportunity to make an economic case for the province to go on its own.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mentions of Canada drop in U.S. Congress

'Shift in perception.'
Republicans praise our business climate, low corporate taxes

Changes

- Canada is perceived as being more conservative since Stephen Harper was elected in 2006.
- We are now known for our big oil, small corporate taxes and hawkish rhetoric against Russian President Vladimir Putin and ISIL.

An unusual phenomenon has transpired in the United States Congress when it comes to mentions of Canada.

In fact, it's more like two phenomena.

The first is that references to Canada have gone down over the years — way down.

The Congressional Record suggests a drop by half since the free-trade debates of the early 1990s as distant wars, trade deals and geopolitical turmoil supplanted the focus once lavished upon the next-door neighbour, with 1,548 mentions in the 102nd Congress of 1991-93 gradually melting into barely 700 mentions in the soon-to-expire 113th Congress.

The second point of interest is the partisan shift: It used to be mostly Democrats talking about the neighbour, sometimes favourably and sometimes negatively. Now it's mostly Republicans, according to the Capitol Words website.

"There's been a shift in perception," said Christopher Sands, a Canada-watcher at the Hudson Institute in Washington. "That is the perception of Canada being a more conservative place."

That switch occurred around 2006 — the year Canada elected a Conservative government. But Sands said the political-image makeover has been more gradual, since Canada balanced its books in the 1990s, lowered its corporate taxes, and became a huge oil exporter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, and U.S. President Barack Obama make their way to a G20 plenary session in Brisbane, Australia, in November. MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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CANADA 2015: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Will rash of talk translate into action?

Conversation. If we don't make changes, we risk losing any progress we've made this year

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Society is fickle.

It always has been, in a way, but we see it more today than ever before.

It used to take hours for news to spread across the country or around the globe, landing in your living room just in time for breakfast. Now, it spreads faster than a British Columbia wildfire during a drought.

As a result, the conversations we have often change just as fast. Outrage about government scandals blends into chatter about the best new meme blends into more outrage about whatever's captured our short attention spans. We are like kittens working the production line in a glitter factory.

The conversation we had about sexual assault this year broke the modern-day mold.

Sparked largely by now dethroned CBC Radio icon Jian Ghomeshi accused of using power to parlay violence, Canada's dialogue about what's right and just plain wrong in the bedroom, workplace and everywhere else didn't blend into anything else.

It was, for months, at the forefront of intense political debates, casual coffeehouse conversations and, perhaps most importantly these days, social media.

Hashtags like #NoMore and #BeenRapedNeverReported started trending on Twitter as a steady line of women stepped forward to declare they had been raped, felt up or treated like a sex toy.

Could it be that after decades of hushed back-room whispers about body shapes and less-than-consensual one-night stands that we had turned a corner?

Jian Ghomeshi leaves College Park court with his lawyers in November. The case has sparked a national dialogue on sex assault. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Everyone hoped — and continues to hope — that's the case. Given our past behaviour, however, it's doubtful.

Remember the throngs of Hollywood stars who stood front and centre during the HIV/AIDS movement? How about all those moustaches proudly sprouted for Movember? Or the deaths of Michael Brown and Cpl. Nathan Cirillo?

All were, at some point in the very recent past, issues pushed to the forefront of a communal march toward a better world. But, unfortunately, the fervor has died.

When was the last time you saw someone wearing an AIDS ribbon? Canada raised 45 per cent less for Movember this year than in 2013.

The #BlackLivesMatter hashtag, synonymous with Brown's death at the hands of a Missouri police officer, is still being used, but it's hardly trending. After being gunned down on Parliament Hill, Cirillo is now being remembered as only one of many stories of 2014.

Our conversation about sexual assault risks the same fate unless it moves from talk to action in 2015.

Promises by political committees dedicated to the topic need to be fulfilled, promises of more support for victims need to become reality and victims need to continue coming forward with stories that turn enough stomachs to hold our attention spans — over and over again.

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WORLD 2015: STORIES TO WATCH

Weaving a tangled web

E-politics. The Internet has come into its own as a force for social change, both good and bad, and in this new world we'll all need to be brave

MATT LAFORGE
matt.laforge@metronews.ca

Hackers calling themselves "Guardians of Peace" wreaked havoc on Sony Pictures in one of the most eye-opening of many recent instances of Internet-based activism. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

If 2013 was the year when, in light of the Edward Snowden disclosures, we finally reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by governments and corporations, then 2014 was the year when, in light of the Woody Allen, Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby affairs, GamerGate, and the anti-police-brutality protests — we reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by civil society. (And then at year's end, of course, along came government's reply, in the form of the Sony hacks, which the U.S. eventually confirmed were the work of North Korea.)

The lessons we've learned have been profound, and the anxiety and uncertainty that remain will, I believe, lead to major social changes in 2015 and beyond. I don't know what they'll be but I guarantee they're coming.

Above all, what we'll continue to come to grips with in the coming years is that the Internet can do more than merely supplement the processes of the brick-and-mortar world; it can supersede and even outright replace those processes.

A government can spy on you planting a bug.

A police officer thought to have committed an act of brutality can be identified, whether mistakenly or accurately, without his department releasing his name.

A man can be accused of being a sexual criminal, and be condemned by wide consensus — attaining a measure of social justice for victims and families — without the authorities trying, convicting or even arresting him.

A major entertainment conglomerate can have its private documents made public and can be forced, under threat of violence, to bury a $42-million movie without anyone breaking into the company's offices or so much as speaking to an employee. On some level, we've known for a while now that such things were possible. But there's a difference between knowing something could happen and watching it happen.

When the primacy of certain institutions — the criminal-justice system, for one — is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made. The wide-open questions that face us heading into 2015: Who will progress and at whose cost?

Quoted

When the primacy of certain institutions is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made.

Cubans looking ahead with cautious optimism after U.S. diplomatic shift

The restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States unleashed expectations of even more momentous changes on an island that often seems frozen in a past of classic cars and crumbling Art Deco buildings.

Following the surprise announcement, many Cubans expressed hope that it will mean greater access to jobs and the creature comforts taken for granted elsewhere, and lift a struggling socialist economy where staples like meat, cooking oil and toilet paper are often hard to come by.

That yearning, however, was tempered with anxiety. Some fear a cultural onslaught, or that crime and drugs, both rare in Cuba, will become common along with visitors from the U.S.

There is also concern that the country will become just another Caribbean destination.

That mix of optimism and concern was a common refrain among Cubans trying to digest the implications of such a seismic shift between the two Cold War rivals after more than half a century of bad blood.

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Climate change: Earth's elephant in the room

It's not going anywhere. Scientists' warnings have never been more urgent and humanity's response has never been less adequate

MATT LAFORGE
matt.laforge@metronews.ca

For most of 2014, news stories reporting climate scientists' findings about humanity's ongoing punishment of Earth's atmosphere, as well as their increasingly dire predictions about the severity of the damage on weather patterns, biodiversity and food supply that such punishment stands to inflict, appeared with the usual frequency (regular but not overwhelming).

These stories also appeared in the usual media venues, and the comments from the carbon-counting eggheads bore the usual flavour of urgency (assertive but polite, with a soupçon of held-out hope). But at a certain point in the year's latter months the conversation heated up.

First, in September, came the annual report from the Global Carbon Project. Predictably depressing results: emissions reached record levels in 2013, having increased by 2.3 per cent in 2013. Canada and the U.S. remain two of the world's worst per-capita emitters. (The money quote, courtesy of one of the eggheads, was strikingly unequivocal: "There is no more time. It needs to be all hands on deck now.")

Then, in the year's final weeks, another summit, this one in Lima, which itself was only a prelude to yet another summit next year in Paris, ended with the 190 participating countries agreeing to a set of emission-reduction pledges that nearly everyone characterized as craven and watered down.

A few days after that, U.S. scientists released a report showing that the amount of vital sun-reflecting snow and ice in the Arctic had reached record lows.

Summation: Things probably got worse than ever in 2014.

Of course, the problem with saying that any one year's climate-change news is the worst yet is that it opens one up to charges of recency bias: It only feels like things got worse than ever in 2014 because 2014 is the year we happened to have just finished living, and human memories are short.

The problem with recency-bias charge, however, is that, because the causes of climate-change are cumulative, every successive year that doesn't produce a concerted international counterattack is in fact and by definition the worst year in the history of the problem. This issue will not go away in 2015. Right up to the moment when we decide to do what's required to make it better, it will only get worse.

Some of the culprits

The top carbon-dioxide-emitting countries, by worldwide rank, as of 2011, according to the U.S.'s Energy Information Agency.

- **1. China:** Total emissions (in millions of tonnes): 8,715.31
  Per capita emissions (in tonnes): 6.52
- **2. United States:** Total emissions: 5,490.63
  Per capita emissions:17.62
- **3. Russia:** Total emissions: 1,788.14
  Per capita emissions: 12.55
- **4. India:** Total emissions: 1,725.76
  Per capita emissions: 1.45
- **9. Canada:** Total emissions: 552.56
  Per capita emissions: 16.24

Climate change gets more urgent with every year that passes without serious action on the part of the world's worst polluters. And there's no reason to believe 2015 will be any different. Just ask the polar bears. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NOAA/KATHY CRANE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces an election in 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pivotal year for Israeli-Palestinian relations

Israel had a particularly bad day of publicity on Dec.17. It was the kind of day that could, if the chips end up falling a certain way, be looked back upon next year as a turning point on the path to a new reality in the Middle East.

In Geneva, a conference reviewing the Fourth Geneva Convention rebuked Israel's settlement construction in the West Bank as a violation of Israel's responsibilities as an occupying power. That same day, a European Union court ordered the Palestinian group Hamas removed from the EU terrorist list, saying the listing was based on press and Internet reports and not on "acts examined and confirmed in decisions of competent authorities." And in New York, a draft resolution calling for Israel to pull out of Palestinian-sought lands by 2017 was submitted to the UN Security Council for a possible vote.

Three setbacks, all merely symbolic. Yet when one puts these events in the context of the moment — hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government crumbling, continued strained relations with the White house — one can imagine a milestone year for the Palestinian cause in 2015.

Yes, one could just easily imagine the status quo stubbornly persisting, and in any scenario it doesn't take much imagination to predict an incredible amount of violence and pain coming before whatever change happens or doesn't happen. Still, it's worth pausing to note occasions that posterity may eventually deem pivotal. The future sometimes arrives more quickly, and in a different form, than we expect.

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WHO WE SAID GOODBYE TO IN 2014

A list of some of the newsmakers who passed away this year.

Farley Mowat, 92

Master storyteller and tireless defender of nature and wildlife. He penned some 40 books, including Never Cry Wolf and The Boat Who Wouldn't Float. May 7.

Robin Williams, 63

Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades. Aug. 11.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Sharon, 85

Israeli general and prime minister who was both admired and hated for his battlefield exploits and ambitions to reshape the Middle East. Jan. 11.

Mavis Gallant, 91

Montreal-born writer who carved out an international reputation as a master short-story author while living in Paris for decades. Feb. 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maya Angelou, 86

Author and poet who rose from poverty, segregation and violence to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page. May 28.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mickey Rooney, 93

Pint-size actor and all-around talent whose 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theatre. April 6.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46

He won a best actor Oscar in 2006 for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote in Capote and created a gallery of other vivid characters, many of them slovenly and comic figures. Feb. 2.

GETTY IMAGES

Knowlton Nash, 86

Veteran CBC broadcaster best known as anchor of late evening news program The National from 1978 until his retirement in 1988. May 24.

Alistair MacLeod, 77

Prairie-born author who won the 2001 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award with his only novel, No Great Mischief. April 20.

Joan Rivers, 81

Raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the male-dominated realm of late-night talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities. Sept. 4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shirley Temple, 85

Dimpled, curly haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers. Feb. 10.

Jim Flaherty, 64

The former Canadian finance minister was a fixture on the world financial stage who stepped down in March to return to the private sector. He was credited with helping get Canada back on track to a balanced budget following the 2008 financial crisis. April 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, 76

Boxer whose wrongful murder conviction became an international symbol of racial injustice. April 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ben Bradlee, 93

Hard-charging editor who guided The Washington Post through its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal and invigorated its newsroom for more than two decades. Oct. 21.

L'Wren Scott, 49

She left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger. March 17.

GETTY IMAGES

Jean-Claude Duvalier, 63

He presided over what was widely acknowledged as a corrupt, brutal regime as the self-proclaimed "president for life" of Haiti until an uprising sent him into a 25-year exile. Oct. 4.

Big Bank Hank, 57

Member of the pioneering hip-hop group the Sugarhill Gang, responsible for one of the most popular rap songs of all time, Rapper's Delight. Nov. 11.

Lauren Bacall, 89

Slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in To Have and Have Not and The Big Sleep — and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages. Aug. 12.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar de la Renta, 82

Worldly gentleman designer who shaped the wardrobe of socialites, first ladies and Hollywood stars for more than four decades. Oct. 20.

Pat Quinn, 71

Former NHL player, longtime coach and executive. He coached for the Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Vancouver Canucks, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Edmonton Oilers, reaching the Stanley Cup Finals twice. Nov. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VOICES

VANCOUVER 2015: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

What should be on the agenda in 2015? Aside from transit, obviously. How about a helping hand for your fellow Vancouverites?

PAUL SULLIVAN
vancouver@metronews.ca

It's that time.

Time to make a list of New Year's resolutions suitable for abandonment around Jan. 26 (see "Worst Day of the Year").

Vancouver, especially, needs to buckle down. A city with world-class aspirations has to make some world-class resolutions.

First on the list: Transit. We've all heard about the extra million people who are coming to stay. So how are we going to schlepp them around?

Premier Christy Clark has downloaded responsibility for funding the city's $7.5-billion transit wish list to a referendum, and the question will be: "Do you support a 0.5 per cent increase in provincial sales tax in Metro Vancouver?"

The referendum will be this spring, and the resolution should be: "I will hold my nose and volunteer for a tax increase because no one else is going to step up and do it."

Next resolution: Find a politician who will show some (any) leadership, starting with transit.

Meanwhile, at least Mayor Gregor Robertson shows some "vision" on homelessness. He has pledged to end it in Vancouver by 2015. Hey, that's now! Be it resolved: Homelessness. End it.

Speaking of transport, it's time we called a truce in the war between bikes, cars and pedestrians. During these long, dark, rainy months, we need to look out for each other, and that means more than making sure we don't get run over. So, as much as I'm tempted to treat my fellow Vancouverites like a bunch of pylons, I will resolve to do my bit to make the streets safer for everyone, even if it means holstering my middle finger.

This is the year Vancouver should finally land a bike-share program. METRO FILE

Reach high

A city with world-class aspirations has to make some world-class resolutions.

One of the things most world-class cities (e.g. London, Paris, Barcelona) have in common is a bike-share program. No more lame excuses like the bike-share company just went bankrupt. Resolve that: This is the year we launch a bike-share program.

Vancouverites aren't just grumpy in traffic. They rarely smile, hold the door, stop and help, or give up their seat on the SkyTrain. Are we too cool for school? Would it kill us to be a little friendly?

And so, I resolve to act as a one-man antidote to climate-induced gloom (or any other kind) and smile my way through Jan. 26 and beyond.

Maybe we're so grumpy because some people throw their garbage everywhere. I mean, who goes for a walk in the trails of Stanley Park with a Big Mac and fries? And who leaves the wrappers on the trail? Disgusting! I resolve to pick up after myself. And you, too, if I have to. But I'm counting on you!

Finally, is it just me, or is there at least one male fashion statement that it's time to retire? We're talking about the man bun. The 21st-century version of the hippy ponytail. Be it resolved: Hair today, gone tomorrow. That'll help clean up the streets.

New Year's resolutions for newsmakers *as imagined by Rebecca Kohler*

REBECCA KOHLER
readers@metronews.ca

People who participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge: This year, we resolve to donate to charity without being tagged by a friend on Facebook. And this year, we will actually donate money, not just a video of ourselves in that cute bikini we bought in Vegas.

Don't tell anyone, but we didn't even put ice in the water. In fact we warmed it up and put lavender bath salts in it. We pretended it was cold, but it was actually really soothing.

Jian Ghomeshi: This year, I resolve to start a really cool radio show about arts and culture. My only guest will be my mom and we'll broadcast from my childhood bedroom. If need be, I will relocate my studio to the Millhaven Institution.

Apple: Last year we released the iPhone 6, but that's old news — let's face it, it was old news five minutes after you bought it. (Sucker.)

This year, we resolve to launch the iPhone 10 — we'll release the 7, 8 and 9 quickly throughout the year but their batteries will only last for two months and we'll make sure their screens smash faster than Humpty Dumpty's skull.

The iPhone 10 will be nicknamed the iPhone Large and will be the size of an iPad Mini but so thin you won't be able to see it. It will come with an app that eats money and can be purchased on layaway with your first-born child as down payment.

Ebola: In 2015, I resolve to do more travelling. I hear Iceland is gorgeous!

Renée Zellweger: In 2015, I resolve to not change my face. I won't get Botox, or chemical peels (maybe one) and I will love myself for who I am.

It's hard because the film industry makes me feel bad about myself, so I changed my face, but then they all made fun of me so it's like, "What?!"

No, but seriously, I'll just stick to moisturizer and maybe some Retin-A but no fillers. I mean, who am I, Meg Ryan?

Malala Yousafzai: I am honoured to have won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. I resolve this year to continue being one of the most inspirational people on the planet.

Perhaps in 2015 I will try improving the world further by posting a no-makeup selfie. I can only hope to be so brave.

Justin Bieber: 2015: Girls, peeing, mop-buckets, eggs, depositions, yo. Peace.

metro
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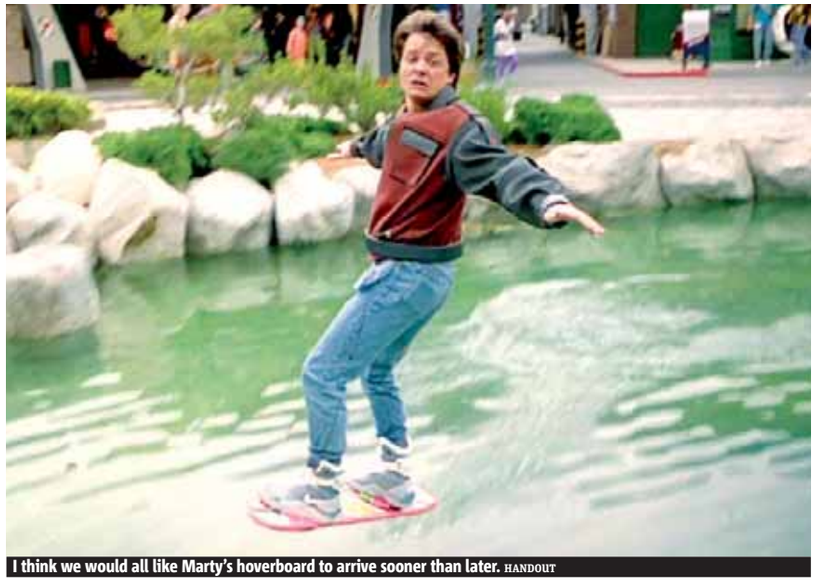
SCENE 2015: BACK TO THE FUTURE

Marty!! Are we any closer to trying your hoverboard?

Back to the Future 2 year is nigh. 2015 will bring us into the movie's future minus the DeLorean so let's do some comparisons

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



I think we would all like Marty's hoverboard to arrive sooner than later. HANDOUT

It's time, everybody. We're finally reaching 2015, the future presented in the 1989 sequel Back to the Future II that was full of auto-drying jackets, freeze-dried pizza and hoverboards. So now is about as good a time as any to take stock and see how we're doing with the technological advancements predicted in the film.

Hoverboards
It looked like we almost had this a year ago, but it turned out to be a Funny or Die hoax that Tony Hawk was in on. He's back again saying for real he's really tried one out, but we're finding it hard to trust again. Besides, if Segways never really took off, what hope do hoverboards have?

Flying cars
Possibly the biggest gripe people today have about the future we were all promised. Way to continue that wave of disappointment, Back to the Future II.

Food hydrators
Still not sure exactly how this technology is supposed to rejuvenate and enlarge a hockey puck-sized frozen pizza, but that's beside the point. The film apparently predicted that Black & Decker would still be the reigning kitchen gadget company of the future. Boy, were they wrong.

Giant in-wall video conferencing
In the film, they basically combine giant home flat-screen TVs and Skype. They even had the foresight to predict the massive, industry-wide aspect ratio change to widescreen.

Nike Air Mags
Nike actually released a replica version of these totally boss high-tops in 2011, but they weren't actually self-lacing, so really what's the point? We're stilling bending down to tie our shoes like our parents and grandparents.

Flying automated news cameras
This one's not that far off, actually, given the rise of consumer-level remote-control drones and GoPro cameras. So good work, movie.

Double neckties
Thank God these never caught on. The less said about this bizarre fashion choice, the better.

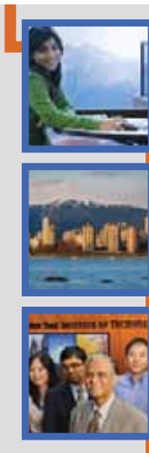
Tiring online pranksters

What gives, Internet?

For several years running, online pranksters have been following a bizarre pattern of behaviour: Taking the image of Doc Brown's upgraded DeLoreon dashboard from Back to the Future II, modifying it to show a different date and posting it online with the breathless caption, "Today is the day Marty McFly travelled in time to in the future!"

Only it's not. That day is Oct. 21, 2015. But that hasn't stopped countless Photoshop-happy fiends from misleading people on Twitter and Facebook, starting in 2010. It happens on a surprisingly regular basis, and the coming year will likely only see more of such antics.

The question remains, though: What's the point? There's really nothing to gain from duping people with this gag, and it gets disproved quicker and quicker each time. Yet still it persists. Our only guess is the reward is the pure, immature joy of manipulating others' gullibility and willingness to retweet things.



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SCENE 2015: MOVIES

8 films not to be missed

Just because Hollywood is still in the grip of Awards Season, that doesn't mean we can't start getting excited about what the next 12 months have in store for movie fans. While we have to wait to see what indie and prestigious fare shake out of Sundance, Cannes and the rest of the festival circuit, you can mark your calendars with these now.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

1 Jupiter Ascending.

Feb. 6

It's encouraging to know that after not nearly enough people gave Cloud Atlas a shot, Larry and Lana Wachowski aren't playing it safe. Instead, they're doubling down on the bizarre and grandiose science-fiction fare that they're known for. Give Channing Tatum's wolf ears a chance.

2 The Last Five Years.

Feb. 19

While this musical starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan isn't necessarily the best date movie — it chronicles a couple falling in and painfully out of love — it's definitely a better Valentine's Day choice than Fifty Shades of Gray.

Anna Kendrick stars in the breakup movie The Last Five Years. GETTY IMAGES

3 Avengers: Age of Ultron.

May 1.

Let's face it, all these Marvel movies are cool and all — and 2014's two entries were very, very cool — but it's all fun and games until Joss Whedon returns to the scene with the studio's flagship. Bonus points for James Spader voicing an evil killer robot. Even if you're suffering from Superhero Movie Fatigue, at least make room for the cream of the crop.

A new installment in Marvel's Avengers franchise is coming out in May. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 Mad Max: Fury Road.

May 15.

It's been a pretty depressing few years of attempted revamps of '80s action franchises — Total Recall and Robocop come painfully to mind, and yet another Terminator movie looks like the worst yet — but this? This gives us hope. Mostly because Road Warrior guru George Miller is behind the wheel. And because of that jaw-dropping trailer.

5 Tomorrowland.

May 22.

We're not really sure what's going on with this movie, and that's part of what makes it so exciting. George Clooney, a young female protagonist and Brad Bird directing? Count us in. Let's just hope co-writer and Lost alum Damon Lindelof doesn't let us down.

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Chris Pratt stars in Jurassic World, opening next summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6 Jurassic World.

June 12.

This might be a terrible, terrible mistake, but we're willing to be cautiously optimistic. For now, at least. Director Colin Trevorrow's previous indie work gives us some hope, as does Chris Pratt on a motorcycle flanked by velociraptors. Come on, Pratt. Don't let us down.

7 Inside Out. June 19.

Here's all you need to know about Inside Out. It's Pixar's first original movie in years, and it's about different personified emotions fighting each other for control of a young girl. Right?

Pixar's Inside Out is out in June. HANDOUT

8 Spectre. Nov. 6.

The closer we get to the end of the year, the less convincing we need to get excited for big releases. Case in point: The next James Bond film, with Skyfall director Sam Mendes sticking around for another go. They've barely been filming a month and it's due in theatres in November. You've got to at least admire the work ethic.

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Behold the rise of the YouTubers

Virtual stardom. More and more entertainers are flipping on their webcams and building their own audiences

When Lilly Singh arrived on the set of the Kunal Nayyar movie Dr. Cabbie earlier this year, she faced a bit of a learning curve.

The 26-year-old already had millions of fans and was regularly mobbed by teenage girls at the mall. But the Markham, Ont.-based star wasn't a famous actress or pop singer — she was a YouTuber.

"I went on set and I just started acting right away. They were like, 'No, no, we need to call action,"' Singh recalled with a laugh during a recent telephone interview.

"I'm like, 'You have to call action? What do you mean? No one calls action for me. I call action!"'

Singh is among a new generation of entertainers who are finding massive success on YouTube. With self-produced, low-budget videos, YouTubers are attracting devoted fan followings, earning steady paycheques and increasingly landing film roles, TV shows and record deals.

On her channel IISuperwomanII, Singh posts comedy videos twice a week for her 4.4 million subscribers. She typically shoots them in her parents' house in Markham, where she lives. She plays multiple characters — male and female — with a goofy, refreshing lack of self-consciousness.

With videos like How Girls Get Ready and Types of Kids at School, Singh has fostered a largely suburban, teenage female audience. She often finds humour in her relationship with her Indian parents, frequently donning a fake beard and thick accent to portray her dad.

"I don't feel the need to be this perfect, very pretty type of person, and I think my fans really relate to that," said Singh. "A lot of times they tell me, 'You're so real, and you make me OK with being myself."'

Singh said her upbringing in Scarborough, a diverse suburb of Toronto, greatly influenced her comedic style. One of her first videos to go viral was titled (Stuff) Punjabi Mothers Say, which has now been viewed more than four million times.

"When I first started, inevitably (my fan base was) majority Indian, because my videos were titled, like, 'My Indian parents so-and-so.' Now, I don't do that anymore because I very quickly realized you don't have to put Indian in the title because it applies to everyone, for the most part," she said.

"Even if I'm talking about my (South) Asian parents, I can do it in a way that someone who has Jamaican parents, or Chinese parents, they can relate to it as well."

YouTube creates room for alternative voices that aren't well-represented in mainstream media, said Aubrey Anable, an instructor at the University of Toronto's Department of Visual Studies who has studied digital culture. "There are a lot of YouTube celebrities that are minorities, or their type of performance or what they are doing on YouTube is not something that can be easily found in mainstream media culture," she said.

She said YouTube stardom is distinct from traditional TV and film fame because of a greater sense of intimacy between creator and fan. Often YouTubers shoot their videos in domestic spaces like bedrooms, directly address their fans and appeal to them to subscribe or leave a comment. "All of these are unique to YouTube and I think it creates this sense of connection between amateur YouTube celebrities and their fans," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The money

For those curious about how YouTubers earn money, YouTuber and Toronto comedian Megan MacKay said she is paid through the site's partner program, which places advertising on and around her video content. With YouTube taking 45 per cent off the top, a million hits makes her about two thousand dollars. "It's not like, I'm-filling-a-swimming-pool-with-money-and-I'm-going-to-swim-in-it-for-the-rest-of-my-life money, but it's the job. It is a job for a lot of people," she said.

YouTube sensation Lilly Singh made her mark playing multiple characters and poking fun at suburban life.
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LIFE 2015: SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

Time to ditch bad behaviours

Resolutions. Internet culture has permeated our habits and changed how we treat each other — and not in a good way

KATE CARRAWAY
For Metro

Looking for a New Year's resolution? OK, probably not. But you may have spent 2014 participating in one (or, let's be honest, *more*) of these bad, or just sort-of-bad, behaviours. So here's what you might want to resolve to quit doing in 2015.

Public Transit

It's time for a definitive ruling on public-transit behaviour — especially mid-winter, when we're packed in more than usual. Can we finally agree that it's inappropriate to do any kind of grooming on transit?

The nail trimming obviously has to go (the fact that people do this at all will remain a mystery of my lifetime), but I'm also not thrilled to see hair being brushed or lips being glossed or, especially, perfume being applied.

Similarly, eating food — I'm talking takeout, sandwiches, anything with a scent and a personality — is giving your fellow passengers a sensory experience they didn't ask for.

Sneaking a quick face-check via iPhone camera before arriving at your destination, or having a few bites of a granola bar, is permissible, but if you're really givin' 'er, rethink it.

Documenting a concert on your phone is pointless, and it's rude to the performer and the rest of the audience. ISTOCK

'Compliments'

Street harassment was a hotter-than-usual topic in 2014, in part thanks to that viral video of a woman being catcalled as she walked around New York.

It probably came as a surprise to some people (men and women alike) that while just saying "hello" to someone on the street might be done with good intentions, it's not always taken that way (especially when it's the 10th thing a stranger has said to you that day).

It's easy to forget that everyone is having their own individual experience, and imposing ourselves on that experience through unwanted conversation is straight-up rude.

Let's resolve to pay attention to other people's signals, and not assume that everyone is up for a question, a compliment or even a "hi."

Posting

With so many news stories unfolding in real time and being posted on social media, there's a huge opportunity to do it wrong. Huge.

Before posting your opinion — especially if you know less about that issue than other people in your social networks — take a beat, and ask yourself if you really have anything to contribute.

If not, maybe do something else, something positive, with the instinct to weigh in.

Of course, we're all entitled to post whatever we want on our own pages, but good etiquette involves always thinking about how we're creating and affecting other people's experiences.

Not adding something to an existing online cacophony is an easy, subtle way to be polite.

Phone Etiquette

In a movie theatre …
My personal choice for No. 1 worst-ever phone-etiquette foul is using a phone, even just to look at it just for a second, in a movie theatre.

Here's the rule: It's just fine to text, check Twitter, whatever, during the previews, but that thing better be off — *off*-off — before the feature starts. The glow of the screen is super-obvious in a dark theatre, not just to people behind you, but to everyone on either side, all the way to the back. The only time it's OK to use your phone during a movie is if you're in the very back row, and no one else is. Got it? Good.

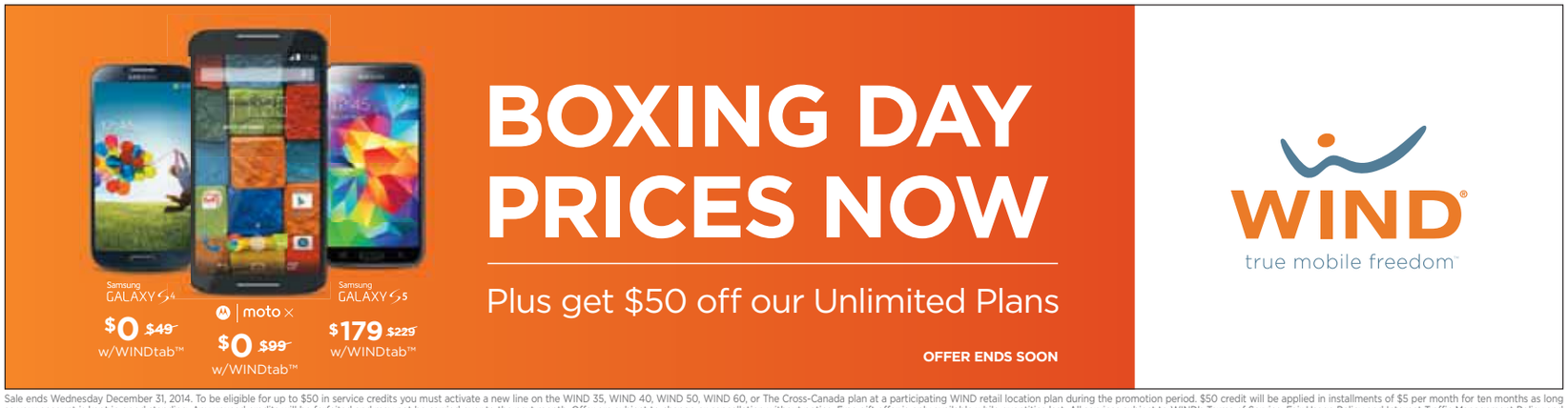
At a concert …
It's become common practice in the age of smartphones, YouTube, Vine and Instagram to document the parts of life that weren't considered particularly notable even a decade ago, or the parts of life that are really better in the moment, like concerts or stand-up sets.

Taking one of a million grainy clips with terrible sound that end up on the Internet doesn't really have a purpose, anyway, and it's rude — to the performer, to the people you're with and to the rest of the audience — to ignore what's happening in real time.

On the street, or anywhere …
Camera-phone culture means it's become common practice to take photos of other people, semi-randomly and without asking. Which is crazy!

Don't take a picture without first asking if it's cool, and don't post a picture of someone else on the Internet. That anyone would ever do this, without the other person's permission, is evidence of how much Internet culture has permeated our habits when it comes to how we treat each other.

When in doubt in 2015, think of what you might have done in 2005 — or 1995 — for guidance.



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LIFE 2015: HOROSCOPES

SALLY BROMPTON
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What the stars hold for you

Aries (March 21 to April 20)

You are rarely slow to assert yourself, either in your personal life or in your career, and both the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 suggest you will be even more active and ambitious than usual this year.

That's great — you are sure to go far — but don't forget that even an ultra competitive Aries needs to recharge their batteries once in a while. Jupiter's move into the well-being area of your chart on Aug. 11 will encourage you to take up some sort of relaxation or meditation technique.

Taurus (April 21 to May 21)

Is there something you have neglected to do? More to the point, is there someone you still need to resolve certain issues with? According to the planets there is, and 2015 is the year to sort it out once and for all.

Saturn's return to the relationship area of your chart in June will encourage you to do it. Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Virgo from Aug. 11 promises great things creatively and, yes, romantically, but only if you do something about all those emotional loose ends. The final four months of the year should be truly spectacular.

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)

Venus and Mars, the relationship planets, join the sun in the most adventurous area of your chart on Feb. 20, so if you are in the market for love you won't have to wait long to find it.

Existing relationships will improve as well, especially if you use your imagination and make an effort to spice things up.

Saturn in your opposite sign will bring challenges, especially in the closing months of 2015, but it will also bring opportunities to forge long-term alliances with serious people, the kind of people you need to balance your own carefree attitude to life.

Cancer (June 22 to July 23)

Saturn in the well-being area of your chart means you need to pay more attention to your health — physical, mental and emotional. That may not sound like a lot of fun, but don't worry because with Jupiter moving into one of the more outgoing areas of your chart in August, the second half of the year will bring plenty of social opportunities.

What happens around the time of the solar eclipse on Sept. 13 will remind you that it can be just as much fun to travel as to arrive, especially when you are the one in charge of the schedule.

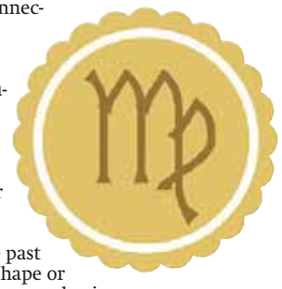
Leo (July 24 to Aug. 23)

A family matter you thought had been amicably resolved will return to vex you this year — especially after Saturn moves back into the domestic area of your chart in June.

This time there can be no half-measures and no give and take — stamp your authority on the situation and insist that everyone follows your lead. You may be a nice guy by nature but you are nobody's fool, and anyone who thinks they can manipulate your emotions is in for a rude awakening.

Treat yourself to a vacation around the time of the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 — you will have earned it.

Virgo (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23)



The big news this year is the entry of Jupiter into your sign in August. Jupiter improves your lot on every level, but more importantly it widens your outlook on life, enabling you to see connections and possibilities where previously you could see only stumbling blocks and confusion.

Mars in sympathetic Taurus from March 31 to May 12 is also an omen of bigger and better things to come, so start making plans and don't let the past limit you in any way, shape or form. Think of 2015 as a new beginning, and don't waste a single day of it.

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Libra (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23)

Venus, your ruler, teams up with Mars in late February to create the perfect cosmic environment for love to blossom. If there is someone you want to get close to romantically, don't wait for them to make the first move — spell it out and let them know you think the two of you together would make the perfect couple.

Career-wise July is the best month to let employers and senior colleagues know you want a better deal, or you will seek pastures new. Make your demands when Mars links with Mercury on July 16 — it's unlikely they will refuse you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 to Nov. 22)

You have so many big ideas but you don't seem to be doing much with them. Why is that? Most likely it has to do with the influence of Neptune in the most creative area of your chart. Neptune is the planet of imagination but also indecision, so you tend to chop and change for no good reason.

Happily, the influence of go-getting Mars will help you to decide what to focus on in 2015. Set your sights high, but more importantly don't change tack halfway through the year. Whatever you start, see it through to the end.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 to Dec. 21)

Mars in the domestic area of your chart from mid-January to mid-February will help you get your home life in order, and it's important that you do so because later in the year your focus will be on more worldly matters — you certainly won't have time for family dramas.

Jupiter spotlights career issues from Aug. 11 onward and it's quite possible that you will change jobs or even go back to school and study for a completely different line of work. It's never too late to move in a new direction, at least not for someone as adventurous as you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Capricorn may be cautious by nature but it is also a cardinal sign, and that means you always work toward a long-term goal. What happens between the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on April 4 will bring into focus how successful — or not — you have been in turning your ambitions into concrete achievements, and you may well decide on a top-to-bottom relaunch of your life.

That may sound drastic but you don't see the point in doing things on a small scale. The bigger you think and act this year, the more you will accomplish.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

When your ruler Uranus squares up to power planet Pluto in mid-March, you will be thrust into a situation that demands a speedy and decisive response. If someone has been taking advantage of your trusting nature, you must deal with them ruthlessly, not just because they deserve it but because you need to let everyone know that you are not a soft touch.

The remainder of 2015 will be plain sailing and come November, when Mars moves into the most adventurous area of your chart, you may even be sailing for distant shores. Life should always be an adventure.

Pisces (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Your self-assurance will increase this year — especially around the time of the solar eclipse on March 20, which only just falls in your birth sign but will still do wonders for your confidence. And that's good because a lot of people will be depending on you.

The year's other solar eclipse on Sept. 13 suggests you will be called on to fill a leadership role of some sort, one in which you can use your intuition and compassion to bring together people who might otherwise waste time and energy in needless competition. You sense it is time to leave the old divisions of "us" and "them" behind.

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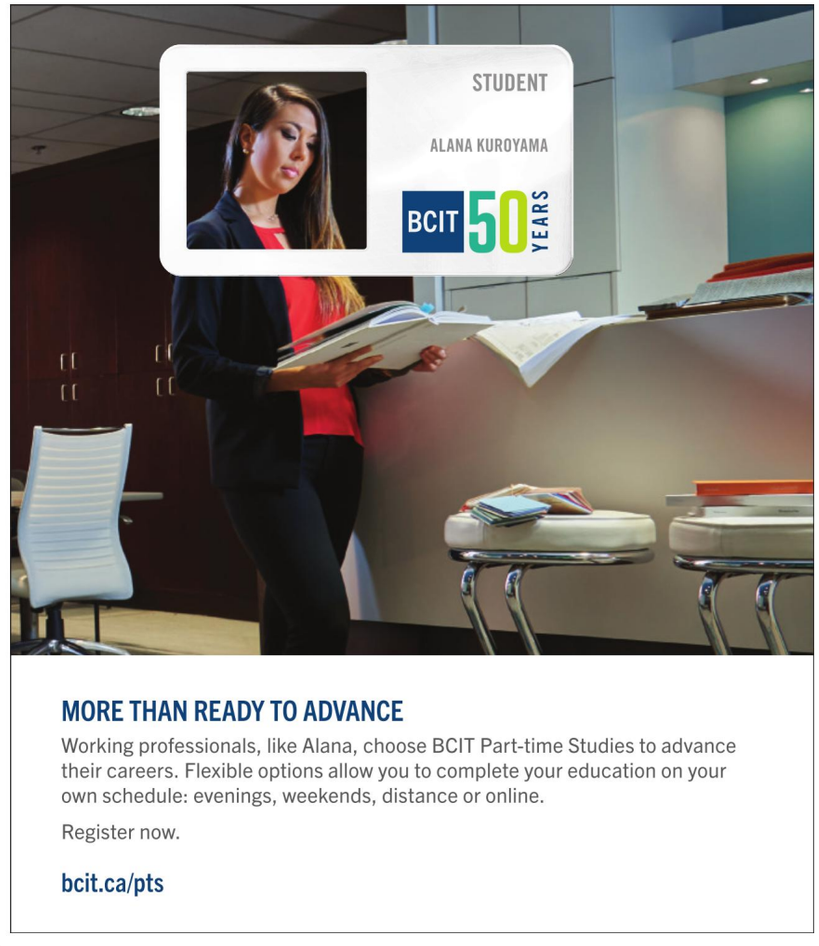
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LIFE 2015: FOOD TRENDS

5 ways to boost your health

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1 The REAL deal

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If Loblaws is doing it, you know it's a trend that's here to stay. Consumers are choosing foods that are good for their health — looks as though we are finally getting the message that what we do today affects our bodies and quality of life tomorrow. All President's Choice products are being (or have been) reformulated to remove artificial colours and flavours ... let the food improvement competition begin!

2 Your calf is grass

Grass-fed is where it's at. Full-on organic can be cost-prohibitive but we know the fat ratio (Omega 3:6:9) is in better balance when your animal is grass-fed. With companies like Rolling Meadow rolling out grass-fed butter (tastes just like grandma's), yogurt and milk, and Natural Life Choices serving up grass-fed hot dogs, burgers and sausages, you can really go whole hog with the grassy trend.

3 Alternative protein

Let's face it, some of us find the gluten-free trend unappealing. But our high-carb, low-protein diets are killing us. Now protein is finding its way into everything, and perhaps the most comforting trend comes in the form of fresh pasta that is low-cal, high-fibre and high-protein — it's sweeping us off our feet. Look for Skinny Pasta in the refrigerated section of your grocery store and never look back.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PERSONAL NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

4 Rise of the humble sap

The whole world is hugging the maple tree as it turns its back on sugar. This sweetener is showing up in everything from yogurt to doughnuts, in spreads and coffees — meaning the humble sap is taking its place in the limelight. Wear a smudge of it on your cheek with pride.

5 Fermented friend

Keffir is the new Greek yogurt, for sure, but what else can you do (deliciously) to contribute to a healthy gut? Kimchi, sauerkraut and tempeh are all fermented foods that deliver other strains of probiotics and food to feed them with.

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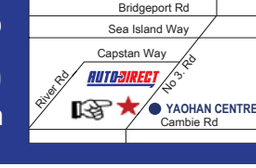

SPORTS 4

World juniors at home is the best gift of all

Five reasons why. This holiday season, watch the daring Danes, the frustrated Swedes and cheer on Canada's young guns

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

Team Canada players stretch at selection camp on Dec. 15 in St. Catharines, Ont. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With hanging wreaths and wrapping presents comes another important holiday tradition — world juniors.

Here are five reasons to watch the 2015 IIHF world junior championship, starting Boxing Day and concluding with medal games on Jan. 5:

5. Daring Denmark
Denmark may not be the top team at the rink, but will be interesting to watch. The country has earned its way back into the world's best junior tournament after winning gold in the 2014 IIHF U20 World Championship Division I Group. The daring Danes are serious about competing, and they used the World Junior A Challenge, held earlier this month in Kindersley, Sask., as a world juniors warm-up. It's a family affair for head coach Olaf Eller, whose son Mads plays forward for him, and won the 2014 Memorial Cup with the Edmonton Oil Kings.

4. NHL star power
Many junior-age NHL players jump at the chance to wear their country's colours on the ice, and Canadian Anthony Duclair is no exception. The New York Rangers have released him so he can re-join Team Canada at the world juniors. Players such as Jonathan Drouin of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Aaron Ekblad of the Florida Panthers and Nathan MacKinnon of the Colorado Avalanche are staying in the big leagues.

3. Swedish vengeance
Sweden is sick of silver. After losing to the U.S. in the 2013 final and falling 3-2 in overtime to rivals Finland in last year's championship game, nothing less than gold will do for the frustrated-with-second-place Swedes. Perhaps more so for forward Jacob de la Rose and defenceman Robert Hägg, who represented their country at both of those world junior disappointments. They have a good chance of getting what they want. Both have also been improving in North America this season, de la Rose with the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs and Hagg with the AHK's Leigh Valley Phantoms.

2. Russian Wildcats
Forward duo Ivan Barbashev and Vladimir Tkachev aren't just teammates on their country's national junior team, they're also former teammates on the Moncton Wildcats of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Yep, a couple of Russian kids have honed their skills together, in the middle of our Maritime provinces. Although Vladimir Tkachev was traded earlier this month to the Quebec Remparts, both like the QMJHL style of play and because of that experience, will be comfortable on the North American-sized ice surfaces in Toronto and Montreal. These two Q-league imports intend to improve on Russia's two straight bronze medals, and reclaim gold-medal bragging rights.

1. It's at home!
Hockey folks know that fans in the stands can become the all important "seventh player" on the ice for the home team, so Canada has a clear advantage this year, since the tournament is taking place in Montreal and Toronto. Whether you're watching on your tablet or television, or seeing it unfold live at Bell Centre or Air Canada Centre, game action will be impacted by an awesome atmosphere, and your cheers for the red and white could make a difference on the road to gold.

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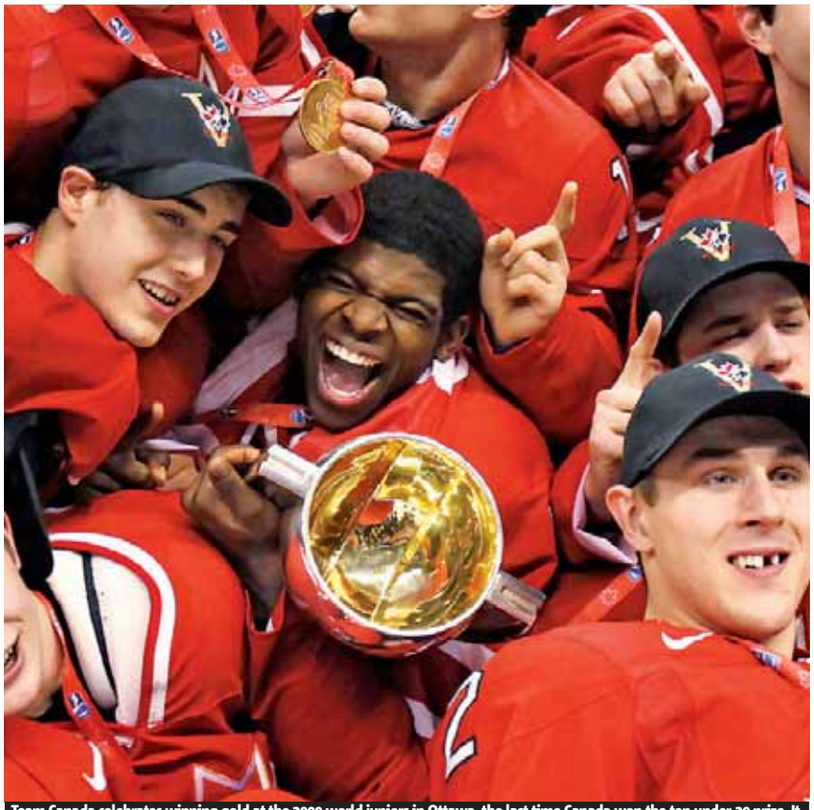

Team Canada celebrates winning gold at the 2009 world juniors in Ottawa, the last time Canada won the top under-20 prize. It was Canada's fifth straight championship. TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Let's hope this year starts a medal feast

Peaks and troughs. Five golden years preceded five goldless years so a turnaround is due

CAM TUCKER
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For Canada, when it comes to winning gold at the IIHF world junior championship, it's been feast or famine.

The last time Canada won the under-20 tournament was 2009 in Ottawa. The late Pat Quinn was behind the bench. That capped off a run of five straight gold medals for the red and white, a feat the nation also celebrated in the mid-1990s.

But since Ottawa, Canada's world junior team has fallen on hard times. Five years without gold. No medals in each of the last two competitions. Break out the inevitable wisecracks about Canada needing a mass summit of brilliant minds and big names to cure what ails our game and restore the nation's place in hockey greatness.

This drought isn't unprecedented, but you'd have to go all the way back to the early 1980s, the days of Soviet Union domination in hockey, when Canada had a run of two or more years of finishing without a medal.

This year's tournament, starting Boxing Day, takes place in Toronto and Montreal — two of Canada's largest, most historic hockey markets. There's nowhere to hide. The pressure on Canada's junior team has always been great. It will be greater this time around. The feeling has long been anything short of gold in this tournament is a failure. Maybe that's unfair.

It's turned into a tradition for hockey fans coast to coast, tuning in during the holiday season, skipping work — sorry, "calling in sick" — to watch.

The world juniors have long since been a staple on TSN, and since that network lost its NHL broadcast deal, this tournament is sure to garner more focus from a television aspect, especially because, well, Toronto.

The last time Canada broke out of its gold-medal funk — back in 2005 — Sidney Crosby was on the team. The 2014-15 team has teenage phenom Connor McDavid. A sign, perhaps?

Details

Canada has been drawn into a tough Group A against the U.S., Finland, Slovakia and Germany in Montreal. Group B, played at Toronto's ACC, consists of Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Denmark. Here's a look at Canada's group stage games:

- **Fri., Dec. 26 vs. Slovakia**
- **Sat., Dec. 27 vs. Germany**
- **Mon., Dec. 29, vs. Finland**
- **Wed., Dec. 31, vs. U.S.**

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you are nice to someone who does not deserve it today you will benefit in unexpected ways early in the new year. People in positions of authority will single you out for bigger things.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to waste money on things you do not need. It may not bother you now but in a few weeks time you may regret having been so free and easy with your cash.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Keep personal info to yourself today. You may be tempted to bare your soul and let a certain person in but the planets warn that is not a good idea.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may be obvious that a loved one is keeping something from you but there is a good reason. This is one of those occasions when it really is better that you don't know what is going on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone in a position of authority wants you to do something for them today then most likely you will have no choice in the matter. Make it the best thing you've ever done.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something you want to do with your life but it means giving up so much of what you already know. Is it worth it?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you try to help someone out but they reject your offer, don't take it personally. Most likely they are under such pressure that they can't think straight.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets, a loved one is getting emotional for no good reason and it is up to you to calm them down and help them see sense again.

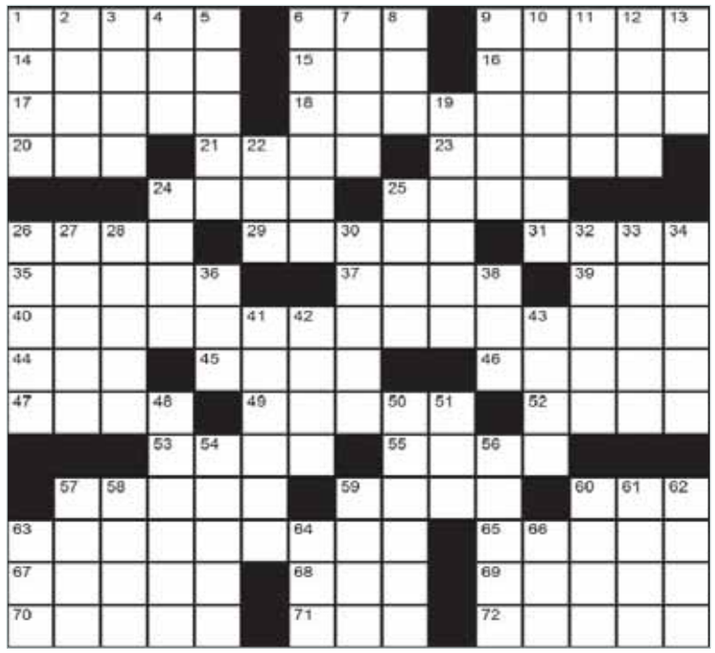
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is no such thing as a sure thing. Keep that in mind today — you won't go wrong. Certainly not as wrong as some of your friends, who seem to think they can do as they please.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You should be doing more with your talents. You have what it takes to make a mark on the world, so step into the light. Do something out of the ordinary.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You like to be controversial but watch out you don't push it a little too far today and annoy someone you should try to stay on good terms with.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune in your birth sign means you are at your best when you let the caring side of your nature come to the fore. Don't worry that some might take advantage of you — that's a problem for their conscience.

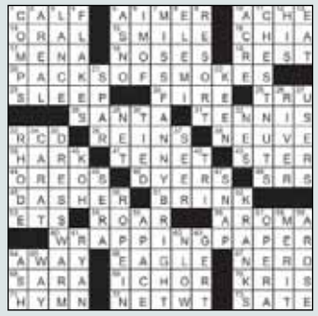
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. December 26th: They draw customers to stores
6. 4 qts.
9. Comedian Drew
14. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
15. 'Select' suffix
16. Jane Eyre was her governess
17. Laboratory dish
18. Bargains: 2 wds.
20. Freelancer's encl.
21. Move like a river
23. Pup's protests!
24. Soap brand
25. __-aging cream
26. The ___ (Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Olympics stadium)
29. Type of snake
31. Charity contributions
35. Hasn't _ __ (Doesn't realize)
37. Supplier for Wile E. Coyote
39. Nodful word
40. Boxing Day, to many: 2 wds.
44. Belonging to Sioux City's li'l state
45. Nylons nick
46. Lifetime series, "Devious __"
47. US crash-investigating agcy.
49. Washer and __
52. Sailboat part
53. Larger-than-life
55. Coat, as with plaster
57. Scottish comedian Mr. Ferguson
59. Adhere
60. Barenaked Ladies song: "Be My Yoko __"
63. Place to eat at the mall: 2 wds.
65. Lifeboat lowering crane
67. Sidewalk artist's tool
68. City of Brazil, with Paulo
69. Decree
70. Canadian rock band, __ Hatch
71. Always, fancy-style
72. Beverly Hills' __ Drive

Down
1. Has the beverage bit-by-bit
2. "...or to take arms against _ __ of troubles..." - Hamlet
3. Behind
4. Head hearer
5. Movie genre
6. Richard Gere flick, "American __" (1980)
7. Profess
8. The Lion
9. Military trainee
10. George Clooney's sister
11. Gather
12. Building extensions
13. Nod's meaning
19. Go-getter
22. Quebec locale, __-Beauport
24. Fasten, as shoelaces: 2 wds.
25. Shoe prop, __ support
26. Drainage __
27. Apple instant messaging application
28. Makeup kit item
30. Like oversized clothing
32. Actress Ms. Cornell
33. Honey drinks
34. Speak, archaically
36. Mini-albums, commonly
38. Street for Freddy
41. Canadian bookstore
42. Drug deal buster, commonly
43. Poetic foot
48. Mr. Bumble's gig in Oliver Twist
50. Newspaper VIP
51. Sprinted
54. Fussy
56. Bovid bag
57. Small salmon
58. Horse hue
59. Highlands hillside
60. Roman love poet
61. Pleasant
62. "The Simpsons" bus driver
63. US broadcasting regulator
64. "What's the __?" (Why bother)
66. Commotion

Dec. 24's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Dec. 24's Sudoku

4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3	7
7	5	2	6	3	4	9	1	8
9	1	3	2	7	8	4	6	5
5	6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3
8	9	7	3	4	1	5	2	6
2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4	9
1	2	5	7	8	6	3	9	4
3	4	8	5	9	2	6	7	1
6	7	9	4	1	3	8	5	2

Conceptis Sudoku

5	1	9						
4					3			
3				7				
			3	6			2	
		8	1		5	9		
	6			8	7			
				9				4
			2					5
						7	9	6

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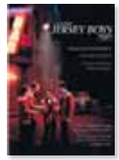

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